

# American Cancer Society website changes

On the left are images from the American Cancer Society's [website](#) as it appeared on Nov. 19. The images on the right were captured Dec. 10.

The screenshot shows the 'Talcum Powder and Cancer' page. At the top, there are navigation links for 'MENU', 'DONATE', and the American Cancer Society logo. Below the title, there is a section titled 'What is talcum powder?' containing a detailed description of talc's composition and uses. A sidebar on the right features social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, and Print. A yellow callout box highlights a statement about asbestos-free talc. At the bottom, a horizontal line separates the page from a note about historical reporting.

**Talcum Powder and Cancer**

**What is talcum powder?**

Talcum powder is made from talc, a mineral made up mainly of the elements magnesium, silicon, and oxygen. As a powder, it absorbs moisture well and helps cut down on friction, making it useful for keeping skin dry and helping to prevent rashes. It is widely used in cosmetic products such as baby powder and adult body and facial powders, as well as in a number of other consumer products.

In its natural form, some talc contains asbestos, a substance known to cause cancers in and around the lungs when inhaled (see [Asbestos](#)). All talcum products used in homes in the United States have been asbestos-free since the 1970s.

Until recently, the American Cancer Society reported on its website that consumer talc products in the United States have been asbestos-free for decades.

The screenshot shows the same 'Talcum Powder and Cancer' page as above, but with significant changes. The yellow callout box has been removed. The text at the bottom of the page has also been altered to reflect industry guidelines regarding asbestos-free talc.

**Does talcum powder cause cancer?**

When talking about whether or not talcum powder is linked to cancer, it is important to distinguish between talc that contains asbestos and talc that is asbestos-free. Talc that has asbestos is generally accepted as being able to cause cancer if it is inhaled. This type of talc is not used in modern consumer products. The evidence about asbestos-free talc, which is still widely used, is less clear.

The organization also removed this sentence, which assured consumers that modern consumer talc products are free of asbestos.

After inquiries from Reuters, the organization edited the page to say that industry guidelines state that cosmetic talc should be free from detectable asbestos, according to industry standards.

The screenshot shows the page again, but the removed sentence has been restored. The text at the bottom now includes the original statement about talc being asbestos-free for decades.

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